



***THE CITY COMMISSION WANTS  
YOU!***

Your Community    Your Vision    Your Decision

## *Safe Neighborhood Improvement District*

On April 5, 2001, the City Commission approved the Community Area Plan for the Central Area. The Plan outlined a variety of goals to encourage a safer community with stronger neighborhoods and improved infrastructure.

At this time, about half of the goals have been initiated or completed by the City using existing resources and funding. The City Commission has since requested that Planning staff work with the Central Area *Community Leadership Committee* to develop a funding strategy that will allow for the implementation of the remaining eight goals by 2011, the City's 100th Birthday.

The recommended funding strategy is a Safe Neighborhood Improvement District, or **SNID**. By designating the Central Area as a SNID, property owners in the Central Area would pay an ad valorem tax of up to 2 mills annually (\$2 per thousand dollars of assessed property value) that would be used to fund the capital, operation and maintenance of the goals of the district. Those eight goals are explained in detail below.

**So, what does the SNID mean to the average taxpayer?** Under the SNID, the average property owner in the Central Area would about \$10 per month for the implementation of all eight (8) of the improvements listed below. At the Thursday, September 26, 2002 Voting Forum, you will have an opportunity to let the City Commission know whether you support the establishment of the SNID, and which goals you would like to see implemented with SNID funding.

### *1. Reduce Criminal Activity*



In the past five years, nearly half of all violent crimes reported to the Fort Lauderdale Police Department occurred in the CAP Central Area. Therefore, public safety is the number one priority for the community. The Safe Neighborhood Improvement District funding would pay to hire **nine new police officers** and **four new D.A.R.E. school resource officers** who would work within the CAP Central Area.



### *2. Beautify Streets and Areas Where People Travel*

Based on comments from CAP Public Workshops, many streets within the CAP Central Area are in need of improvements such as better drainage, safer sidewalks, decorative paving, light fixtures, and trees. These types of improvements would provide a safer environment for pedestrians to travel while also beautifying major roads in the Central Area.

The Community Leadership Committee chose **seven corridors located within the Central Area that would receive improvements** with the SNID funding. Those corridor areas are:

- NW 16 Street between Powerline Road and Andrews Avenue
- NE 11 Street between Andrews Avenue and the FEC Railroad
- NE 14 Street between Sunrise Middle School and FEC Railroad and NW 12 Avenue between NW 14 Street and NE 13 Street
- NW 10 Avenue between Sistrunk and NW 4 Street
- NW 19 Street between Powerline Road and NW 7 Avenue
- Chateau Park Drive between NW 9 Terrace and NW 15 Avenue and NW 10 Avenue between Chateau Park Drive and Sunrise Boulevard
- NW 8 Court between 15 Terrace and 15 Avenue, NW 15 Avenue between 8 Court and 9 Street, and NW 9 Street between 15 Ave and 13 Ave

*Examples of before and after photos of streetscape improvements*



### *3. Beautify Homes and Businesses in Neighborhoods*

Three of the goals developed from the CAP Central Area were to improve landscaping along neighborhood corridors, make more trees available, and develop methods for home and business improvements. These goals merged into an improvement program called "Paint & Plant." The **Paint & Plant Program would provide improvements to the appearance of properties along selected corridors throughout the CAP Central Area.**

Neighborhood entranceways and gateway corridors will be the priority for the Paint & Plant Program. Physical improvements to a group of properties should provide a visual boost to the area and encourage neighboring owners to improve their own properties. The SNID would produce \$250,000 a year to be used for the Paint & Plant Program on the selected Central Area corridors.





#### 4. Improve Drainage with Swales

Drainage is an important issue to the people of the Central Area and swales are an important part of the drainage system. Swales are generally defined as the strip of land in front of your home and adjacent to the street. Swales gather storm water and allow it to soak into the ground, which provides a natural filter to remove pollutants.

Swales don't always work as they should, since they also provide an area for parking, serve as the location of utilities, and allow space for pedestrian movement. The SNID would fund the **development of citywide swale standards** to help resolve the conflicting uses of swales. The standards will also produce models of how swales should look and be used for particular neighborhoods or areas within the City.



*Swales provide a retention area for storm water as it drains from the roadways and eventually filters into the ground.*

#### 6. Create Parks in Neighborhoods

The CAP Central Area community emphasized their wish for additional parks. Thirty-one percent of the Central Area is made up of children ages 17 and younger. Parks serve as a valuable community facility for children, families, and neighborhood residents.

The City Parks Department determined that four neighborhoods do not have enough park facilities. The SNID would provide funding for **four neighborhood parks**: the expansion of Walker Park in Dorsey-Riverbend, and the creation of new neighborhood parks in Sweeting Estates, Flagler Heights and Poinsettia Heights.

Each park would require funding for land acquisition, design and construction. The Parks Department would work with each neighborhood to design the parks through a series of workshops.

#### 5. Provide Traffic Calming to Slow Speeding Cars in Neighborhoods

In addition to enhancing the appearance of Central Area roads, a major concern of community members is to reduce speeding through neighborhoods. Initially, many CAP Workshop participants recommended installing speed bumps to slow speeding cars throughout all Central Area neighborhoods.

City Engineering staff proposed working with each neighborhood to implement traffic calming measures that are best suited for their particular area or corridors. Possible traffic calming measures may include speed humps, roundabouts, road narrowing, landscaped medians, and road closures.

Through the Safe Neighborhood Improvement District, each Central Area neighborhood would get **\$60,000 to implement traffic calming improvements**.



*Neighborhood traffic calming devices include roundabouts (above) and speed humps (below).*



#### 7. Provide a Multi-Purpose Community Center



Fort Lauderdale and the CAP Central Area are home to many different groups with diverse characteristics and needs. There are a variety of age groups, cultures, languages, and households all living within the twelve neighborhoods of the Central Area.

In several of the CAP public meetings and workshops, the need for a community center was repeatedly brought up. The SNID would provide funding for a **multi-purpose community center** that could provide a space for social services, educational training classes, health services, leisure and recreation activities, public meeting rooms, and cultural activities, among other uses.

The services that the center will provide will ultimately be based upon the needs of the surrounding communities.

The exact location of the center has yet to be determined; however, some preliminary studies suggest locating the center near Andrews Avenue and Sunrise Boulevard to be within walking distance of the targeted population.

#### 8. Promote Economic Development

Over time, communities develop through a combination of public and private investment. When public investment encourages private investment, citizens benefit from job growth, improved quality of life and increased City tax rolls, providing additional tax revenues to pay for public services.



To ensure that the Central CAP Area gets its share of the local and regional economic growth, the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) is leading the City's economic development efforts. The CRA is working to strengthen the existing businesses and to bring new stores, new homes and new businesses to the CAP Central Area. One of the CRA's focus areas is the redevelopment of Flagler Heights as a mixed-use neighborhood with new residents and businesses. CRA is investing public funds to construct **infrastructure in support of high-density housing developments**. The SNID would provide additional funding for streetscape improvements.

YOUR Community

YOUR Vision

YOUR Decision

Attend the CAP Central Area Voting Forum  
on

**September 26, 2002**

Let the City Commission know if you support  
a proposed Safe Neighborhood Improvement District (SNID)  
to fund community-requested improvements  
in the CAP Central Area.

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WANTS YOUR OPINION!!*

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***Come Vote!***

**You are invited to attend the CAP  
Voting Forum to make a difference  
in the future of your community!**

**Date:** September 26, 2002

**Time:** Open House between  
5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Place:** Iron Workers Banquet Room  
1201 NE 7th Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale

**CAP Hotline (954) 828-4759**